

Audit Advisory Committee

for

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

Annual Report 2017

Chairman's Foreword

This is the 2017 annual report of the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's Audit Advisory Committee ['the Committee'].

The Committee provides an independent assurance function to the Police and Crime Commissioner ['the Commissioner'] and the Chief Constable on the effectiveness of governance, risk and audit arrangements and controls in place, within the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Constabulary.

Up until the end of March 2017, the Committee comprised three members. The term of office for two of the members came to an end at that point. Following a recruitment process, four new members were appointed to the Committee and they took up their posts from the beginning of April 2017.

Membership

Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Chairman

Helen Waller is a non-practising barrister whose current roles include Examiner of the Court and law tutor. In 2008, she joined as a member, and later the chairman, of the Standards Committee for Cheshire Police Authority. Following on from this, Helen was on the Interim Joint Audit Committee from November 2012, becoming Chairman of the Joint Audit Committee in December 2013.

Members

Phil Bearpark is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and has held a number of senior roles within the UK Rail Industry over the last 26 years. He still works part time in Rail and is now a Director of his own business. Phil is very experienced in audit, governance and risk management.

David Gilburt is a qualified accountant who has held senior finance positions including Director of Finance and Chief Finance Officer roles in NHS Organisations. He is also a Non Executive Director of the RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry where he Chairs the Audit Committee.

John Pearsall is a fully qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors. He is also currently Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Insurance Services at Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council with overall responsibility for the delivery of assurance services to the Council. John is also currently a tutor, examiner and moderator for the Chartered Institute. John has over 25 years of internal audit, governance, control and risk experience in both the public sector (three local councils) and the private sector (pharmaceuticals, retail and financial services).

Tony Snape is a Chartered Surveyor (Quantity Surveyor) who, following many years running the family building and civil engineering company, has held a variety of positions including: a consultant to Gleeds (Construction Consultants); a non executive Director of the Manchester Building Society; Board Member of Great Places Housing Association. His voluntary roles have included: a Trustee of MOSI (Manchester Museum of Science and Industry) and Chair of the Seashell Trust (a charity for very disabled children) where he is still involved.

Members of the Committee bring with them a range of experience and skills which cover the various aspects of the Committee's work. As most of the members are new to the work of the Constabulary, there has been an induction day and opportunities to speak to various members of staff within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Constabulary. Further training is scheduled for July and there will be the chance to go into various police departments to observe different aspects of the work of the Constabulary.

2016/2017

The Committee has supported the Commissioner and the Chief Constable, in particular through monitoring the strategic risk management framework to ensure that risks were adequately recorded and managed; and by considering the Commissioner's and the Chief Constable's Annual Governance Statement and Statements of Accounts to provide assurance that they complied with the relevant requirements.

We have also reviewed issues referred to us by relevant officers, analysing, questioning and making recommendations as appropriate. In addition, we received plans and reports from both the Internal and External Auditors which we have scrutinised to ensure that Cheshire Constabulary maintains the high standards of governance, finance and audit that the people of Cheshire would expect.

Further, we receive reviews from Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary to ensure that full consideration has been given to the appropriate action arising from the recommendations which includes monitoring implementation.

Towards the beginning of 2017 the new members of the Committee were appointed and from February they were gradually introduced to the work of the Committee so that they were in a position to take up their posts and work effectively as members of the Committee from April.

The future

The Committee (along with the Chief Constable and the Commissioner) will continue to take some time over the coming months to assess how we are going to work together successfully. This will include proactively ensuring that each member is able to access any further training or development that is required. Further to this, our work will incorporate ensuring that all aspects of the Terms of Reference are fulfilled and reacting to any issues that arise during the course of the year. The extra members of the Committee will provide a breadth of knowledge and experience which should assist the Committee as a whole in advising the Chief Constable and the Commissioner on any relevant issues.

Further information

For further information on the work of the Committee, its Terms of Reference, Minutes and Agendas, please refer to the website of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

Helen Waller

Chairman of the Audit Advisory Committee of the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

30th June 2017